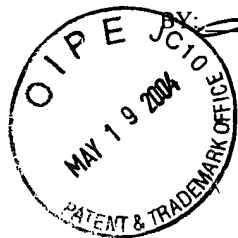


I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450, ON THE DATE INDICATED BELOW.



DATE: May 17, 2004

PATENT
MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Patent Application of : Group Art Unit: 1632
Darwin J. Prockop *et al.* :
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:
Appln. No.: 09/816,182 : Examiner: Falk, Anne Marie
:
:
Filing Date: March 23, 2001 :
: Attorney Docket
: No. 053844-5019-00
For: EARLY STAGE MULTIPOTENTIAL :
STEM CELLS IN COLONIES OF BONE :
MARROW STROMAL CELLS :

AMENDMENT

This Amendment responds to the Office Action dated January 15, 2004, sent in connection with the above-referenced application. This Amendment is being timely filed in view of the accompanying Petition for One Month Extension of Time, and associated fee, which extends the time for response to the Office Action to and through May 17, 2004, in view of the fact that May 15, 2004 and May 16, 2004, are a Saturday and Sunday.